

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /074 W  
-----125931 291342Z /46  
R 272221Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SEXSTATE WASHDC 7270

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3435

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, NU  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL INITIATIVES BY THE OPPOSITION

REF: MANAGUA 3350

1. CONSERVATIVE PARTY DEPUTY, ALBERTO SABORIO, IS CONSULTING WITH LA PRENSA ON AN INITIATIVE WHICH HE WOULD PRESENT IN THE CONGRESS WHICH, IF APPROVED, HE BELIEVES WOULD "BREAK THE ICE" IN INITIATING A PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION TOWARDS ENDING THE SOMOZA'S RULE.

2. HIS INITIATIVE, WHICH SABORIO OUTLINED TO AMB ON JULY 22, IS DIRECTED AT ENDING SOMOZA FAMILY CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN). THE LAW WHICH SABORIO WOULD PROPOSE IN THE CONGRESS WOULD BE TO PROHIBIT EX-PRESIDENTS FROM SERVICE IN THE GN AND PROHIBIT RELATIVES OF THE CURRENT PRESIDENT FROM OCCUPYING COMMAND POSITIONS IN THE GN. AMB SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA ABOUT SUCH AN INITIATIVE (REFTEL). SOMOZA MIGHT ACCEPT SUCH AN INITIATIVE ESPECIALLY IF IT DIDN'T TAKE EFFECT UNTIL THE END OF HIS TERM IN 1981. HOWEVER, IT IS PROBLEMATIC WHETHER HE WOULD ACCEPT AN INITIATIVE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE IMMEDIATE SEPARATION OF HIS HALF-BROTHER AND HIS SON FROM THEIR POSITIONS IN THE GN. SOMOZA APPEARS TO BELIEVE THE SOMOZA  
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PRESNECE IN THE GN MAINTAINS THE GN LOYALTY TO HIM.

3. SABORIO HAS ENLISTED THE SUPPORT OF LA PRENSA SUB-DIRECTOR AGUIRRE FOR THE INITIATIVE. AGUIRRE STATES THAT IT WILL BE COMMENTED ON FAVORABLE IN LA PRENSA AS A TEST OF SOMOZA'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR REFORM. SABORIO

ALSO WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EMB SUPPORT. AMB AND POLOFF, IN MEETING WITH SABORIO, HAVE AGREED THAT IF SOMOZA WERE TO ACCEPT THIS LAW, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN BREAKING THE CURRENT POLITICAL STALEMATE. BEYOND THAT, EMBOFFS HAVE CONFINED THEMSELVES TO TELLING SABORIO THAT IS PORPOSAL IS THE TYPE OF SPECIFIC PROPOSAL THAT EMB HAS HOPED WOULD BEGIN TO SURFACE IN ORDER TO SET IN MOTION A PROCESS OF POLITICAL NEGOTIATION.

4. COMMENT: EMB BELIEVES SABORIO'S PROPOSAL IS A REASONABLE ATTEMPT TO TEST SOMOZA'S WILLINGNESS TO PREPARE FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER. ALTHOUGH SABORIO HAD CONSIDERED CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GON OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT, HE MODIFIED HIS REQUEST TO SPECIFY ONLY THEIR ELIMINATION FROM POSITIONS OF COMMAND TO TRY TO MAKE THE INITIATIVE MORE ACCEPTABLE. THERE REMAIN SEVERAL PITFALLS. THE LIBERAL PARTY MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS COULD REFUSE THE MOTION. INASMUCH AS THIS IS WHAT THE LIBERALS USUALLY DO WHEN IN DOUBT ABOUT A MOTION WHICH APPEARS TO ATTACK REGIME STABILITY, IT WOULD NOT BE CLEAR THAT THE REJECTION WAS BY SOMOZA. FOR THIS REASON, SABORIO HAS SAID HE INTENDS TO CONSULT IN ADVANCE WITH LIBERAL PARTY WHIP LUIS PALLAIS TO ALLOW HIM TO CONSULT IN ADVANCE WITH SOMOZA. EVEN IF THE MOTION IS ACCEPTED, IT COULD BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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WHERE IT COULD EITHER DIE OR SIMPLY SIT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. EMB BELIEVES THIS IS THE MOST LIKELY RESULT. SOMOZA IS LIKELY TO SIGNAL HIS READINESS TO ACCEPT THE RESTRICTION, OR A MODIFIED FORM WHICH WOULD APPLY IN 1981, BUT ONLY AS PART OF AN OVERALL NEGOTIATED PACKAGE OF CHANGES WHICH WILL HELP TO RESTORE A PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF HIS LEGITIMACY TO RULE UNTIL THE END OF HIS TERM.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, PGOV, NU, (SAMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTASIO), (SABORIO, ALBERTO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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